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5A-459

Woodhall Farm
East side of Wheeler's Lane
Not accessible
Date: 1802-1820

Woodhall Farm was originally called Belle Haven. It was built by James Mason who purchased the property in 1802 from his father-in-law, Abraham Scott. This is the sturdy dwelling of a prosperous, but unpretentious farmer. The two remaining outbuildings, a stone dairy house and a stone root cellar, are indicative of the many structures once required to support rural life. The vaulted underground root cellar is not uncommon in Baltimore County.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Belle Haven

AND/OR COMMON

Woodhall Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East side of Wheeler's Lane

CITY, TOWN

Sparks

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Herbert A. Davis

Telephone #: 771-4661

STREET & NUMBER

Woodhall Farm

CITY, TOWN

Sparks

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md. 21152

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 4443

Folio #: 166

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
 SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Woodhall Farm is a two and one-half storey stone house, three bays in length with a gabled roof and a flush end chimney at its west end; its principal facade is to the south. A modern frame wing, also three bays in length but slightly lower than the original, extends to the west and a modern one storey garage wing extends to the east. The dimensions of the original house are approximately 29½ feet (east-west length) by 30½ feet (north-south depth). Few details remain visible to indicate the date of this house; the interior has been completely refinished with new detailing throughout. The 6/6 window sash are set within wide plain frames all of modern date, but the dimension of the latter suggest the earlier existence of wide frames. Sills are of worked stone and stone lintels are less regular. The crown moulding of the north cornice is of the typical early cyma-recta above cyma-reversa profile, again suggesting an early date. The sawn oak roof rafters are half-lapped and pegged at the ridge and a hand-made nail is visible in one of them. A few original first floor joists and a massive central hewn girder remain in the cellar and some contain random hand-made nails driven in as hanging hooks.

The principal entrance is through the easterly bay but the back door, which has been made narrower, is in the central bay. The two chimneys (which meet as one in the attic storey) and the massive girder in the cellar indicate the house to have always been

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES	Unknown	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Unknown
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This sturdy dwelling, located on the east side of Wheeler's Lane, was the home of a prosperous, but unpretentious farmer. James Mason married Rachel Scott, the daughter of Abraham and Elizabeth Scott whose home and mill was at "Regulation" (q.v.). He bought from his father-in-law sixty acres of land in 1802 and built this substantial home. Belle Haven, as it was originally known, was located on the 1795 patent to Abraham Scott and the name persisted into the twentieth century.

In his book Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens, Henry Chandlee Forman dated this house as "probably soon after.....1780.¹ However, the 1798 Federal Direct tax shows no stone dwelling of the dimensions of Woodhall; thus it is presumed that James Mason erected the dwelling after he bought the land in 1802. The present owners indicate that the major alterations were effected by their uncle, Allen C. Davis, when he purchased the structure in 1934.

1. Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens. Forman, Henry Chandlee. New York, 1956

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798.

Baltimore County Tax Assessment: 1823.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 127 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Catharine F. Black and James T. Wollon, Jr. AIA

ORGANIZATION

For Valleys Historical District Project

DATE

September 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1114 Bellemore Road

TELEPHONE

323-3798

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Continuation Sheet #1

Question #7 Continued

two rooms in depth. The entrance sidehall extends only to the dividing partition between the two westerly rooms allowing a small northeasterly room in each storey. The open stairway, all of modern construction, rises with winders at the top within the sidehall, probably in its original location.

A few interior door architraves from the house are stored in the barn consisting of two planes with a cyma-reversa-with-astrigal backband.

A small one storey gabled roof stone outbuilding stands south-east of the house; its appearance suggests it was a dairy-house although no spring or nearby well is apparent; internally modern finishes obscure original work. A door is slightly south of center in its west end and a wide low window is in its south side; its east end and north side are void of openings. It measures approximately 13 by 15 feet.

Northeast of the dwelling is a one-storey gabled roof stone structure sheltering stone steps down into an underground stone-vaulted root cellar with internal dimensions of approximately $7\frac{1}{2}$ by 11 feet.

BA-439
Woodhall Farm
Valleys Historical District

Continuation Sheet #2

Question # 9 Continued

Patent Certificate: Liber IC #K folio 138

Forman, Henry Chandlee. Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens.
(New York, 1956).

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